

There are alarming issues that are being raised. We haven't gotten a lot of answers. I know many are asking: Was it known prior to the time he was put on the Intelligence Committee that there was this relationship with a Chinese spy?

There are also reports that the Chinese spy also was able to infiltrate his office and possibly put other spies in his office.

Was the gentleman aware? Maybe it was just the Speaker that was aware, but were you all aware of this tie to a Chinese spy prior to him being put on the committee? And why is he still on the Intelligence Committee?

I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. I don't have the facts, but, obviously, our position is if there are facts being raised that ought to be looked at, they ought to be looked at.

But I don't have the facts, and I don't want to comment on the issue itself because I don't know enough about it to do so. But I think all due diligence will be pursued.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, and I hope we get those answers. These are serious questions that have been raised. And we are talking about a committee that deals with the most sensitive intelligence information.

In fact, most Members of Congress don't have access to that level of intelligence that members of the Intelligence Committee get, and possibly their staffs have the ability to see some of that.

If an office was infiltrated by spies from a foreign country, especially China, at a time when we are investigating China and raising serious questions about them, these are questions that need to be answered, and I hope we get answers soon.

Mr. HOYER. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. I didn't mention one bill that is still percolating. We passed it 335-78. The Senate passed it, I think, 86-14, or something. The National Defense Authorization Act is going to be going to the President soon. I am hopeful the President will sign it.

If he does not sign it, that will be another issue that may be considered.

On the other hand, I have indications that perhaps there will be a substantial number of Republicans who voted for the bill who may not vote to pass it over the President's veto. So, we will have that to consider as well.

I hadn't mentioned that, and I wanted to mention that that is still on the docket.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

Clearly, President Trump has expressed his concerns about some items in and not in the National Defense Authorization Act. Ultimately, we will see soon if he signs it or vetoes it. He has, obviously, got to weigh all of

those decisions, as he is doing right now.

Mr. HOYER. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I hope he will sign it. I know he has concerns about a section that Senator INHOFE said ought not to be in the bill. But whether it should or should not, it is not in the bill, and the conferees determined that it should not be in the bill.

As the gentleman knows, this has great consequences for our national security and for our troops. I would hope the gentleman would, and I would, urge the President to sign the bill.

I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, and I will continue to work on these items that we need to get resolved—hopefully, will get resolved—in the coming days.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1245

HONORING JOSEPH H. RAINEY

(Mr. CLYBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my appreciation to this august body for unanimously passing H. Res. 1253. I also want to thank Speaker NANCY PELOSI and Minority Leader KEVIN MCCARTHY for their support of the passage of this resolution.

This resolution honors the life and legacy of Joseph H. Rainey, a fellow South Carolinian, who, on December 12, 1870, became the first African American to serve in the United States House of Representatives, blazing the trail that provided the path that I am honored to be on today.

With the passage of this resolution, the House permanently recognizes Congressman Rainey's remarkable achievement 150 years ago from Saturday. They are honoring him by renaming H-150 on the first floor of this building, which is the room in which he met at the time he was a member of the Committee on Indian Affairs, on which he served from 1873 to 1875.

NATIONAL IMPAIRED DRIVING PREVENTION MONTH

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, December is National Impaired Driving Prevention Month. We know that during this time of the year, with so many holidays in a compact amount of time, that the risk is higher. Indeed, over one-third of traffic-related deaths in the United States involve a drunk driver; and we know that, throughout the holiday season, drunk-driving crashes increase.

For example, last December nearly 1,000 people in the U.S. died in alcohol-related crashes, and 35 of those happened on Christmas Day. Every single one of those deaths is preventable.

I sincerely thank our law enforcement and our first responders for being there on the scene during these tragedies and working to prevent them from being worse and from having these impaired accidents happen. However, the decision to drive sober comes from taking personal responsibility for all of our actions and making travel plans before your holiday celebrations begin.

Let's keep every seat at our Christmas tables and at our holiday tables during this time of year safely filled with family and friends instead of tragedy. Let's make sure our loved ones are making smart choices and help them out to be smart and safe during this time of the year.

COVID RELIEF

(Mr. TAKANO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to demand that my Republican colleagues put aside partisan politics and provide relief to the millions of Americans whose lives have been upended by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our country is facing the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression, yet the Federal Government has failed to aid the families struggling to keep food on the table, the small businesses shutting their doors and laying off employees during the holiday season, and State and local governments trying to keep communities afloat.

It has been 9 long months since we passed meaningful legislation to support our fellow Americans. This is a dangerously long time, and the pandemic has only gotten worse.

It is our responsibility to meet the scale and scope of this pandemic and get people the help they have been desperately waiting for. We must work together and finally pass a relief bill immediately. Families cannot afford to wait another day.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY HARLEY ROUDA

(Mr. PHILLIPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor my dear friend and colleague, Representative HARLEY ROUDA, on the occasion of his 59th birthday today.

Congressman ROUDA is as passionate as he is principled, and a reliable voice of reason during very unreasonable times. In celebrating him today, I am reminded of the words of Teddy Roosevelt, who wrote:

It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have